

Board of Crawford County Commissioners

Commissioners' Journal

2021, [SEVENTY-THIRD](#) MEETING

CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, COMMISSIONERS' BOARD ROOM
Girard, KS, [Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 10:00 AM](#)

The Crawford County Board of Commissioners met pursuant to Kansas Statutes Annotated Chapter 19, Article 2, Section 18 in due and regular session with open doors. Commissioner Jeremy Johnson served as the presiding officer. Commissioners Tom Moody and Bruce Blair were in attendance. County Clerk Don Pyle and County Counselor Jim Emerson were seated with the Board. Chairman Johnson led the pledge of allegiance.

UNDER THE HEADING BUSINESS FROM A PREVIOUS MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion (21-331) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair that the consent agenda be approved including:

1. Approval of the [October 8, 2021](#) minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed and the consent agenda was approved.

SIGNING OF MOTIONS

The County Clerk presented the following motions for Commissioners' signatures:

Motion 21	325	That the consent agenda be approved including: Approval of the October 5, 2021 minutes
Motion 21	326	To recess the Board of Commissioners meeting for 10 minutes
Motion 21	327	To approve the Kansas Housing Resource Corporation Emergency Solution Grant (ESG-FFY2021) Recipient Request for Reimbursement and Financial Status Report in the amount of \$5,171,66 and authorize the Chairman to sign
Motion 21	328	To use the Jayhawk Wind Farm Revenue to pay for the repairs to the City of Helper Sewer System in the amount of \$28,505.00
Motion 21	329	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 10 minutes to discuss District Court under

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		Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 12:23 PM
Motion 21	330	To recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 20 minutes to discuss items that would be deemed privileged in the Attorney-Client Relationship to address the Health Department and to include the Board of County Commissioners and County Counselor Jim Emerson and to reconvene by 12:38 PM

UNDER THE HEADING NEW BUSINESS

PROCLAMATION AND ORDERS OF THE BOARD

MESSAGES FROM CRAWFORD CO LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH

Item One: County Health Officials with COVID-19 update. The Commissioners were presented with the Crawford County Gating Criteria updated 10/9. Dr. Stebbins made a statement regarding some of the recent controversy surrounding the masking and quarantine recommendations for the local school districts. Dr. Stebbins discussed the Community Gating Criteria including the School K-12 Gating Criteria and stated that all schools are now mask optional with the exception of Northeast Junior High. He discussed the reasons for Northeast not being completely mask optional at this time.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND OPENING OF ANNOUNCED BIDS

MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC

Item One: Ms. Nancy Ingle of Pittsburg thanked the Commissioners and the Crawford County Health officials for their work to protect the county during the pandemic.

Item Two: Mr. Roger Lomshek of Pittsburg returned to speak to the Commissioners about his concerns that masks in schools are adversely affecting children. He brought a proposal to rewrite the county's guidelines on quarantine.

Item Three: Mr. Jerry Lomshek of Pittsburg spoke to the Commissioners to oppose masking in schools.

Item Four: Mr. Doug Keller of Frontenac thanked the Commissioners and the Health Department for helping keep the county safer during the pandemic.

Item Five: Mr. Harry Humphries of Pittsburg spoke with the Commissioners and asked how COVID-19 differs from other illnesses. Dr. Stebbins answered his question.

Item Six: Mr. Brian Hansen of Pittsburg wants the Commissioners to stop making decisions for their children that should be left to the parents.

MESSAGES FROM APPOINTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

MESSAGES FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

NEW BUSINESS

Item One: County Clerk Don Pyle addressed the City/School General Election to be held November 2, 2021. He stated that advance ballots will be mailed out tomorrow and there

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will be drop boxes at the Courthouse and at the Judicial Center in Pittsburg to drop off advance ballots. He spoke about a polling place location change.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Item One: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (21-332) of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Johnson to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 20 minutes to discuss the Health Department under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, Dr. Timothy Stebbins, Ms. Teddi Van Kam and Mr. Michael Ehling and to reconvene by 11:40 AM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:20 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 11:40 AM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Two: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 20 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (21-333) of Commissioner Johnson and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 20 minutes to discuss District Court under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson, Dr. Timothy Stebbins, Ms. Teddi Van Kam and Mr. Michael Ehling and to reconvene by 12:04 PM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 11:44 AM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:04 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

Item Three: County Counselor Jim Emerson requested an executive session for 15 minutes to discuss Non-Elected Personnel.

On motion (21-334) of Commissioner Johnson and the second of Commissioner Moody to recess this open session and go into a closed executive session for a period of not more than 15 minutes to discuss District Court under Non-Elected Personnel and to include the Board of County Commissioners, County Counselor Jim Emerson and Mr. Michael Ehling and to reconvene by 12:21 PM.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Blair and Johnson

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Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

The Commissioners went into Executive Session at 12:06 PM and reconvened the Open Session at 12:21 PM with no action taken except to go back into open session.

NEW BUSINESS continued

Item Two: County Counselor Jim Emerson stated that he will be presenting a grant for RJA on Friday and the Commissioners will receive an email with the grant attached for their review.

Item Three: Commissioner Blair stated that Hospital District #1 requested to move a billboard sign onto property owned by the county. The Commissioners have no issues with this.

OLD BUSINESS

Item One: Mr. Pyle addressed the Kansas Association of Counties meetings in Overland Park from Oct. 18 through Oct. 20 and all three Commissioners stated that they plan on being in attendance at the conference and the Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners scheduled for October 19, 2021 is cancelled due to the conference.

Item Two: Commissioner Blair gave a brief update on the status of the bidding on the approach at EMS Station #2.

Item Three: Commissioner Johnson discussed the issue of a previous complaint about the intersection of Highway 7 and Highway 126. Commissioner Blair stated that KDOT will not take any action unless a formal request is sent in by the County. He explained that Sheriff Smith is putting together a letter to KDOT and is also working on a traffic count of that intersection and Mr. Emerson also has prepared a letter to KDOT for the Commissioners to sign.

Item Four: Commissioner Blair addressed the opening of a new rock quarry and if there needs to be updates to that intersection due to increased truck traffic. He will follow up with KDOT on this issue.

Item Five: Commissioner Blair discussed the issue of having a 4 way stop installed at Free King Highway and 20th Street due to traffic concerns. He will follow up with Mr. Matt Bacon from the City of Pittsburg on this issue and also get an update from Mr. Bacon on Crawford County Sewer District #2.

Item Six: Commissioner Johnson addressed a work session with the Road Foreman and the commissioners scheduled a work session for Friday, October 15, 2021 at 8:30 AM.

Item Seven: Commissioner Moody addressed having solar powered flashing lights installed at Radley 4 way stop. He stated that he spoke to Sign Forman Dale Shireman and he will get prices. Commissioner Moody will report back on the prices.

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UNDER THE HEADING FUTURE BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FUTURE BUSINESS:

Item One: October 15, 2021 – 8:30 AM Work Session to review and sign October bills and payroll vouchers.

Item Two: October 15, 2021 – 8:30 AM Work Session with the 3 Road Foremen.

Item Three: October 15, 2021 -- 9:00 AM Work Session with Mike Bodensteiner of Greenbush regarding the ARPA Funds.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Item One: October 19, 2021 – The Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Board of Commissioners is cancelled due to the KAC conference in Overland Park. All three Commissioners will be in attendance at the conference.

NEW BUSINESS continued

Item Four: Mr. Pyle stated that he has emailed the Commissioners information on a Zoom meeting with Westar on Thursday to review current and future projects.

Item Five: Commission Blair gave an update on the status of the wind farm project.

UNDER THE HEADING MOTION TO ADJOURN MOTION TO ADJOURN

Item One: Adjournment

On the motion of Commissioner Moody and the second of Commissioner Blair to adjourn the [October 12, 2021](#) meeting of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners at 12:36 PM and to reconvene at the next regularly scheduled time with open doors.

Yeas: Commissioners Moody, Johnson and Blair

Nays:

Present but not voting:

Absent or not voting:

The motion prevailed.

In Testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed my official seal and submitted these minutes for the approval of the Board of Crawford County Commissioners.

Don Pyle
County Clerk

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This submission completed at the Crawford County Courthouse in Girard.

Taken by BKW & LL 10/12/2021 12:37 PM/ amended BKW 10/13/2021 3:00 PM